

Message Text

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----- 113412

R 092306Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 9, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SAUDI PLANE SALE?

A. WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT RECENTLY
SIGNED A LETTER OF OFFER FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL
F-5 AIRCRAFT. AND THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT GIVEN BY THE
SAUDI RADIO WAS APPROXIMATELY CORRECT.

Q. \$756 MILLION?

A. YES. IT'S APPROXIMATELY CORRECT.

Q. HOW MANY PLANES?

A. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE DON'T GET INTO THE SPECIFICS
OF OUR ARMS SALES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Q. WELL, IS IT MORE THAN JUST A FEW PLANES; BECAUSE THE
F-5E RUNS \$3 MILLION A PLANE, IF YOU TAKE \$750 MILLION

THAT'S AN AWFUL NUMBER OF PLANES, 250. ARE THESE 5-E S OR
5-A'S?

A. ON BACKGROUND, ON YOUR QUESTION THERE, I WOULD LIKE TO
NOTE THAT THE DOLLAR FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE JUST THE
PRICE OF THE AIRCRAFT.

Q. WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?
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A. I UNDERSTAND THAT A VERY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE COST
IS FOR TRAINING OF PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS, FOR DEVELOPMENT
WORK ON CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS OF THE F-5'S, SPARE PARTS,
ETC.

Q. I'M A LITTLE PUZZLED BY THIS WHOLE THING. YESTERDAY
YOU INDICATED THAT THE REASON WE WERE NOT ABLE TO SELL
PLANES TO THE JORDANIANS DIRECTLY WAS BECAUSE WE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY F-5A'S AND F-5E'S TO SELL. BUT NOW SUDDENLY WE
HAVE THEM FOR THE SAUDIS?

A. I DON'T RECALL MY SAYING THAT YESTERDAY.

Q. YOU DIDN'T?

A. NO.

Q. WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS ON THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERRAL OF ANY OF THESE PLANES?

A. THE USUAL.

Q. WHICH ARE WHAT? CAN YOU STATE THEM FOR US?

A. WELL, IF IT WAS A QUESTION OF ANY TRANSFER, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q. ON THIS TOTAL FIGURE OF \$756 MILLION, LEAVING ASIDE FOR A MOMENT THE QUESTION OF TRAINING AND MODIFICATION OF THE PLANES, ARE THERE ANY OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE DEAL?

A. NO.

Q. IS THE TRAINING SAUDIS OR TRAINING PILOTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO FLY?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW IF ITS SAUDIS OR JORDANIANS?
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A. I'M ASSUMING IT'S SAUDIS.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW MANY SAUDIS THERE MAY BE UNDER U.S. TRAINING AT THE PRESENT FOR PILOTS?

A. NO, I AM NOT.

Q. IT HAS BEEN MY IMPRESSION THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW IN THE PAST, AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW HOW MANY.

A. I'LL BE GLAD TO LOOK INTO THAT. I'M UNAWARE OF HOW MANY, IF THEY ARE CURRENTLY UNDER TRAINING, OR WHERE, BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN GET ON THAT.

Q. DOES THE TRAINING TAKE PLACE HERE OR IN SAUDI ARABIA OR WHERE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T TELL US APPROXIMATELY THE NUMBER OF SQUADRONS AT LEAST, IF NOT THE NUMBER OF PLANES?

A. I CANNOT, NO.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU CAN'T TELL US?

A. BECAUSE IT'S A MATTER OF POLICY, AS I JUST SAID BEFORE, THAT WE DON'T DISCUSS.

Q. BUT YESTERDAY YOU TOLD US HOW MANY PLANES WERE GOING TO JORDAN FROM IRAN. WHAT IS THIS, A CASE-BY-CASE POLICY?

A. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY IN AMMAN AT THE TIME OF THE SHAH'S VISIT.

Q. WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPEAT YESTERDAY'S LITANY ABOUT SELF-DEFENSE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY? IS THAT THE REASON THE PLANES ARE BEING SOLD? IN OTHER WORDS, THE SAME JUSTIFICATION OR RATIONALE YOU GAVE YESTERDAY FOR THE JORDANIAN TRANSFER, DOES THAT APPLY TODAY FOR THE SAUDIS?
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A. WE HAVE HAD A CONTINUING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP OVER THREE DECADES WITH SAUDI ARABIA. AND YOU CAN USE THE SAME LITANY I USED YESTERDAY IF YOU WILL.

Q. I, UNFORTUNATELY, WASN'T HERE TO HEAR IT. WHAT IS THE REASONING?

A. IT'S ON THE RECORD. IT'S FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE AREA

AND IN VIEW OF OUR VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE HAD WITH THE SAUDIS OVER A GREAT NUMBER OF YEARS.

Q. DEFENSE OF THE AREA OR DEFENSE OF SAUDI ARABIA?

A. AND FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S OWN DEFENSE. AND THE SAUDI ARABIANS DETERMINED THAT THEY NEEDED FOR THEIR DEFENSE.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF REPORTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA THAT SOME OF THES PLANES POSSIBLY MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE?

A. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THIS IS THE PLAN AT ALL. AND, INCIDENTALLY, I MIGHT ALSO SAY THAT THE ARRIVAL OF THE AIRCRAFT WON'T BE UNTIL LATE 1976 IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. WHEN THE BRITISH PULLED OUT OF THE AREA SOME YEARS AGO THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION ABOUT AN EVENTUAL CONTEST BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR PREEMINENT INFLUENCE IN THE GULF THERE. HAS THE SHAH EVER COMPLAINED ABOUT U.S. MILITARY SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. I'M UNAWARE OF ANY COMPLAINTS FROM THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OR THE SHAH IN THAT REGARD.

Q. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RATHER ELOQUENTLY DECRIED BILATERAL ARMS DEALS WITH OIL PRODUCERS VERY SIMILAR TO THE DEAL THAT IS NOW BEING CONCLUDED. HOW IS IT, DO WE HAVE SOME KIND OF DOUBLE SYSTEM OF STANDARDS HERE?

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A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. I DON'T KNOW, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, SPECIFICALLY TO WHAT YOU ARE REFERRING ON WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID.

Q. SPECIFICALLY, I'M REFERRING TO THE FRENCH ARMS DEAL THAT WAS CONDONED LAST YEAR.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. WAS A REPORT MADE ON THIS ARMS TRANSFER TO ONE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES?

A. NO.

Q. THIS IS A CASH ARRANGEMENT IT'S NOT A BARTER DEAL FOR OIL OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

A. NO, IT'S A SALE.

Q. THIS ALL STEMS FROM THAT JOINT SAUDI-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED EARLIER LAST YEAR AND LATER EXPANDED? IT MENTIONED IN IT THAT THE UNITED STATES, IN ADDITION TO ASSISTING IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND OTHER THINGS, THERE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALSO THE DEFENSE NEEDS OF SAUDI ARABIA.

A. WELL, I WOULD DOUBT THAT FOR THIS REASON, THAT THE SAUDIS INDICATED AS EARLY AS 1973 THEIR INTEREST IN PURCHASING ADDITIONAL F-5 AIRCRAFT. NOW, IT IS TRUE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO.

Q. YES. MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN STARTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK AND ON THE BASIS WHICH WAS OUTLINED IN THE JOINT AGREEMENT.

A. THAT MAY BE.

Q. THERE WOULD BE NO REASON WHY THEY COULDN'T.

A. YES, THERE WERE PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS AS FAR BACK AS '73 ON IT. I AGREE WITH YOU THERE WOULD BE NO REASON
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WHY THEY COULDN'T.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE NO PHANTOMS THAT WILL BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. ON THE QUESTION OF THE PHANTOMS, THERE HAS BEEN NO DEVELOPMENT ON THAT SINCE -- I THINK THE LAST TIME WE DISCUSSED THIS WAS BACK IN OCTOBER -- THERE HAVE BEEN NO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SALES OF PHANTOMS.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY BELIEVE THE SALE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN THE AREA?

A. YES.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO CONCERN ABOUT AN ARMS RACE IN THE AREA?

A- WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CONCERN ABOUT AN ARMS RACE IN THE AREA, NO.

Q. THE REASON THAT WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING THE NUMBERS IS THAT BY DOING SOME SIMPLE ARITHMETIC THIS COMES DOWN TO HUNDREDS OF AIRPLANES, WHICH WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SHIFT THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THAT AREA. IS THAT MATHEMATICAL DEDUCTION RIGHT? DOES IT INCLUDE HUNDREDS?

A. NO, IT DOES NOT. BUT I CANNOT GET INTO THE ACTUAL NUMBERS WITH YOU, BUT IT IS NOT HUNDREDS AT ALL OF AIRCRAFT. I WILL SAY THAT ON BACKGROUND.

Q. BY AREA PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE MORE PRECISE. WHEN YOU SAY THE SECRETARY BELIEVES IT CONTRIBUTES TO STABILITY IN THE AREA, DO YOU MEAN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA OR THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I WOULD SAY IN THE REGION.

Q. WHATEVER THAT MEANS.

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Q. WELL, THAT'S KIND OF LIKE AREA. PERSIAN GULF PRIMARILY?

A. I WOULDN'T LIKE TO LIMIT IT JUST TO THE PERSIAN GULF, NO. FOR REGIONAL SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AREA.

Q. THERE IS A PUBLIC SAUDI COMMITMENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE

ANY SAUDI ARMS TO EGYPT IN CASE OF WAR. WOULD THAT APPLY TO THESE PLANES? AND HAVE YOU MADE PROVISIONS ABOUT IT?

A. WELL, AS I SAID EARLIER, THE STANDARD THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER REQUIREMENT WOULD -- IS OBVIOUSLY INCLUDED HERE IN THE SALE.

Q. WHAT RECOURSE IS THERE? I TAKE IT BY THE STANDARD AGREEMENT YOU MEAN WE HAVE TO AGREE TO THE THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. AND WHAT RECOURSE IS THERE IF WE DON'T AGREE BUT THE COUNTRY DECIDES TO TRANSFER ANYWAY?

A. WELL, WE ASSUME IF WE DON'T AGREE THAT IT WON'T BE DONE. I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION IF IT'S DONE AGAINST OUR AGREEMENT.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER ARMS DEALS PENDING? AND I'M NOT REFERRING SPECIFICALLY NOW TO THE F-4'S. BUT ARE THERE ANY OTHER ARMS DEALS PENDING NOW WITH THE SAUDIS?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW AT THIS TIME, NO.

Q. WELL, BUT IT'S SAFE TO SAY THERE ARE OTHER DISCUSSIONS.

A. DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON, YES. BUT I DON'T KNOW IN WHAT AREAS. BUT AS FAR AS CONTRACTS ABOUT TO BE SIGNED, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE IMMEDIATE OFFING.

Q. WHY DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE IN THE AREA?

A. WE JUST DON'T THINK IT IS GOING TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE IN THE AREA. I THINK THAT THERE WILL BE -- THAT YOU TAKE THE JUDGMENT OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT, THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, I DON'T THINK THAT THEY ARE ARMING BECAUSE ONE COUNTRY GETS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ARMS AND THEN THE OTHER ONE WILL GO UP AND UP. I THINK THAT ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ARE PURCHASING WEAPONS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR OWN JUDGMENT OF THEIR DEFENSE NEEDS.

Q. WHAT YOU JUST SAID ISN'T THAT A CLASSIC DEFINITION OF WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO AN ARMS RACE, IS THAT EACH COUNTRY BELIEVES THAT IT HAS CERTAIN NEEDS THAT ARE ESCALATING BECAUSE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ARE ALSO ESCALATING THEIR PURCHASES?

A. WELL, I THINK THIS MAKES AN ASSUMPTION, MAYBE, THAT ONE COUNTRY IS DOING IT SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY'S ARMS PURCHASES, AND I'M NOT SURE THAT THAT IS THE CASE IN THIS AREA AT ALL.

Q. YOU SAID THAT SOME OF THIS WAS GOING TO GO FOR TRAINING OF PILOTS.

A. AND TECHNICIANS, TOO.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NO LONGER GOING TO PROVIDE MILITARY GRANT AID TO SAUDI ARABIA TO TRAIN SAUDI PILOTS?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION. I WOULD ASSUME NO, FRANKLY, I WOULD ASSUME THAT THAT WOULD BE THE CASE, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. IN THE DISCUSSION WITH SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT THESE WEAPONS, THE AIRCRAFT AND WHATEVER, DID THE SAUDIS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE PREPARING A DEFENSE AGAINST SOME PARTICULAR ENTITY?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DISCUSSIONS THAT MIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE GONE ON BETWEEN THE SAUDIS AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q. BUT IT IS THE PLANES TO HELP IN THEIR SELF-DEFENSE?

A. YES.

Q. I MEAN THEY HAVE A LEGITIMATE SELF -- YOU USED THE WORD "LEGITIMATE" YESTERDAY FOR JORDAN -- SAUDI ARABIA HAS A LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE NEED FOR THESE PLANES?

A. YES.

Q. THE KUWAITI NEWSPAPER AL-QABAS, CARRIED AN INTERVIEW TODAY WITH MRS. SADAT QUOTING HER THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WILL COME TO WASHINGTON THE END OF JANUARY IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE HAS VISITED PARIS. NOW, IS THERE ANYTHING TO IT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING -- AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE ON THIS, BUT I HAVE NOTHING ON THE TIMING OF THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADAT TO THE UNITED STATES. I THINK, AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE, WHEN I WAS ASKED THE QUESTION ABOUT OTHER ARAB LEADERS COMING TO THE UNITED STATES, THE ONE THAT CAME TO THE TOP OF MY MIND

WAS THE FORMERLY ANNOUNCED VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADAT. BUT I HONESTLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE TIMING.

Q. WHEN YOU ARE SAYING YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE TIMING, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE GENERAL INTENTION?

A. I KNOW OF NO CHANGE AS FAR AS THE INTENTION OF PRESIDENT SADAT TO COME TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT TODAY THAT OUR AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA, MR. AKINS, HAD SENT A CABLE, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS AMBASSADOR, TO OIL COMPANIES TELLING THEM TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT EQUALIZING, OR BRINGING UP THE SAUDI'S, OR THE ARAB POSITION REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. THIS, OF COURSE, BRINGS UP A WHOLE SERIES OF QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOWS UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT THIS. (A), WHAT HAS IT DONE ABOUT IT, IF IT IS TRUE? IF IT ISN'T TRUE, WILL THERE BE A DENIAL FROM THE AMBASSADOR OR FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT? IF IT IS TRUE, IS THERE AN INVESTIGATION, ET CETERA, ET CETERA? COULD YOU LOOK INTO IT?

A. SURE. BECAUSE I HONESTLY AM NOT BRIEFED ON IT. I'D BE GLAD TO.

Q. I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN THIS TOWN YESTERDAY INDICATED THAT THEY FELT THAT NOTHING SHORT OF A TRIP BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SPECIFICALLY TO CAIRO, COULD MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FURTHER, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF GETTING SOME SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE FROM SADAT. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. WELL, I WAS ASKED YESTERDAY ABOUT THE PLANS OF THE SECRETARY GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST. I GAVE A RESPONSE TO THAT, THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST. HE -- I BELIEVE IT WAS IN THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW, IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, POSSIBLY THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW, WITH REGARD TO ANOTHER TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE, UNDEFINED, IT MAY BE NECESSARY AND/OR DESIRABLE FOR HIM TO GO. BUT AS OF THIS TIME, HE HAS NO PLANS TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. WELL, MY QUESTION IS, DOES HE FEEL THAT THIS PROCESS CAN BE MOVED FORWARD IN THE NEXT, SAY, SEVERAL WEEKS, WITHOUT HIS GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE OBVIOUSLY ON THE TALKS THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE NEXT WEEK, OR WHEN HE MIGHT GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WHAT THE TIMING SHOULD BE. I THINK THAT THE

TALKS ARE GOING ON, AS WE KNOW, AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WILL BE HERE NEXT WEEK, AND WE WILL SEE HOW THE TALKS GO ON.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO THE IDEAS THAT WERE PURPORTEDLY LEFT HERE BY ALLON THE LAST TIME HE WAS HERE.

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A. I HAVE NO COMMENT AT ALL. THERE IS SO MUCH IN THE PRESS ON BOTH SIDES ABOUT WHAT ALLEGED PROPOSALS, ET CETERA, AND WE ARE JUST DOING OUR BEST, ANYWAY, TO TRY AND CONDUCT THIS DIPLOMACY IN THE QUIETEST MANNER POSSIBLE. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON ANY PRESS SPECULATION.

Q. WITHOUT COMMENTING ON WHAT THE PROPOSALS ARE, WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE EGYPTIAN POSITION SO FAR AS HELPFUL, OR WHAT?

A. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE ANY ALLEGED OR REPORTED EGYPTIAN POSITION OR ISRAELI POSITION OR ANY POSITION RIGHT NOW.

Q. I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS. I AM ASKING YOU, CLEAR OUT OF THE BLUE, SO TO SPEAK, WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE FOR US THE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES SO FAR IN THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST? HOW ARE THEY DOING AT THIS POINT?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

Q. YOU USED THE WORDS "NO PLANS" USUALLY VERY CAREFULLY. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION OR DISCUSSION BY THE SECRETARY WITH HIS AIDES OR AMONG HIS TOP AIDES FOR A POSSIBLE TRIP, SAY, WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH, TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. AS OF THIS TIME, HE HAS NO PLANS TO GO. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE WHETHER IT WOULD BE WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH, OR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, OR FIVE WEEKS FROM NOW. BUT, AS OF NOW, HE HAS NO PLANS TO GO.

Q. I KNOW. YOUR USE OF THE WORD "PLANS", AS WE HAVE FOUND IN THE PAST, IS A PRETTY NARROW ONE. I'M ASKING IF THERE IS CONSIDERATION, IF THERE IS ACTIVE DISCUSSION BY THE SECRETARY AND HIS TOP AIDES, OR AMONG HIS TOP AIDES, ABOUT A TRIP IN THE NEXT MONTH TO THE MIDDLE EAST, NOT WHETHER THERE ARE PLANS.

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE

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SECRETARY AND HIS TOP AIDES ABOUT A TRIP AT THIS TIME.

Q. WITH THE SULTAN OF OMAN HERE AT THIS TIME, CAN YOU ANSWER MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OMAN IS SEEKING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. I CANNOT ANSWER IT. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. CAN WE HAVE ANY INQUIRY?

A. I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND SOMETHING ON IT.

Q. THE REASON FOR A LOT OF THESE QUESTIONS TODAY ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST IS TO TRY TO GAUGE THE ACCURACY OF SOME OF THE PRESS REPORTS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. CAN YOU SAY, JUST GENERALLY, WHETHER SINCE ALLON WAS HERE THE LAST TIME, THIS PROCESS HAS MOVED ANYWHERE? IS IT GOING ANYWHERE? I MEAN, ARE YOU MAKING ANYTHING LIKE PROGRESS?

A. THE SECRETARY CONTINUES TO BE HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE PROGRESS TOWARDS A FURTHER STEP IN TRYING TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT IS ALL I AM GOING TO SAY.

Q. TO MAKE IT MORE SPECIFIC, I THINK WHAT JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT, IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS FROM VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORTED IN THE PAPERS, AND SO FORTH, THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE ANXIOUS TO GET THE SECRETARY TO GO TO CAIRO AND TWIST SADAT'S ARM. NOW, YOU SAY THAT THE SECRETARY HAS NO PLANS TO GO THERE, SO APPARENTLY HE HAS YET TO BE CONVINCED THAT HE SHOULD GO TO CAIRO AND TWIST SADAT'S ARM. IS THAT RIGHT?

Q. I'D LIKE TO GET THESE THINGS CONFINED TO WHAT WE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT.

A. REALLY, ON THIS, I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER. AS OF NOW, THERE ARE NO PLANS TO GO. I HAVE EXPANDED ON THAT WITH KEN. AND AT SUCH TIME AS THE SECRETARY FEELS THAT HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OBVIOUSLY HE WILL THEN CONSIDER GOING.
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Q. OBVIOUSLY A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE LESS PRESSING IF PRESIDENT SADAT WERE COMING HERE. DOES THE SECRETARY HAVE ANY PLANS TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT SADAT HERE, THERE, ANYWHERE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK INTO THAT, PLEASE?

A. I'LL TAKE A LOOK INTO THAT ONE.

Q. DID HE EXCHANGE MESSAGES WITH PRESIDENT SADAT RECENTLY
-- THE SECRETARY, I MEAN?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN, BUT I AM UNAWARE OF ANY.

Q. IS IT THE U.S. POLICY THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR TERRITORIAL
WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL, EGYPT SHOULD PAY WITH THE KIND OF
POLITICAL CONCESSION OR SOMETHING?

A. WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

Q. IS IT THE U.S. POLICY THAT IN EXCHANGE OF AN ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL, AN EXCHANGE OF ISRAELI TERRITORIAL CONCESSION,
THAT EGYPT SHOULD PAY SOME KIND OF PRICE?

A. LOOK ON THAT, ON THIS QUESTION, -- AND FRANKLY ON THIS,
THIS IS THE LAST THING I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, AT LEAST TODAY
-- WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLAN OF OUR OWN. YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD
THIS MANY, MANY TIMES. THE SECRETARY IS TALKING WITH THE
INTERESTED PARTIES TO TRY AND SEE HOW ANOTHER STEP IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT ABOUT. WE DON'T HAVE PLANS
OF OUR OWN. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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